ORDINANCE NO. 2019-6

An Ordinance of the Pierce County Council Creating a "Birth to 25 Advisory Board" for Infant, Child, Youth, and Young Adult Development; and Setting a Sunset Date.

Whereas, the development of a child to adulthood spans Birth to 25 years, when the mind and body reach full development; and

Whereas, all infants and children go through stages to acquire the aptitude, competencies, values and social skills they need to become successful adults; and

Whereas, routine practices of child and youth serving agencies apply knowledge of these stages and other research from the science of development to their practices; and

Whereas, it is accepted practice to provide positive supports to youth to transition from adolescence to adulthood through the acquisition of pro social skills and supportive positive relationships; and

Whereas, efforts to prevent risky behaviors and attitudes in youth should be made available to all youth; and

Whereas, there is evidence that youth that have had Adverse Childhood Experiences are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system; and

Whereas, Pierce County is disproportionately represented in the number of dependency terminations and youth admissions to detention facilities; and

Whereas, Pierce County is disproportionately represented in incidence of domestic violence and youth suicide; and

Whereas, Pierce County exhibits high numbers of youth and families living in poverty and/or experiencing homelessness and other at-risk environments; and

Whereas, such disparities as listed above have long-term negative consequences for children, youth, young adults and families in Pierce County; and
Whereas, such disparities as listed above disproportionately impact children, youth, young adults and families of color in Pierce County; and

Whereas, there is not a comprehensive child and youth development strategic plan to support all healthy youth development across Pierce County; and

Whereas, there is a need to improve linkages between agencies, organizations and programs that serve Birth to 25; Now Therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of Pierce County:

Section 1. A "Birth to 25 Advisory Board for Infant, Child, Youth, and Young Adult Development," is hereby created as shown in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall sunset on December 31, 2021.

PASSED this 2nd day of April, 2019.

ATTEST:

Denise D. Johnson  
Clerk of the Council

PIERCe COUNTY COUNCIL
Pierce County, Washington

Douglas G. Richardson  
Council Chair

Bruce F. Dammeier  
Pierce County Executive
Approved _______ Vetoed _______ this  
5th day of April, 2019.

Date of Publication of  
Notice of Public Hearing: April 10, 2019

Effective Date of Ordinance: April 15, 2019
BIRTH TO 25 ADVISORY BOARD FOR
INFANT, CHILD, YOUTH, AND YOUNG ADULT DEVELOPMENT

A. Created.
The Birth to 25 Advisory Board (B-25 Board) for Infant, Child, Youth, and Young Adult Development is created and shall hereafter in this Chapter be referred to as the B-25 Board. The members of the B-25 Board shall be appointed by the Pierce County Executive and confirmed by a majority of the Pierce County Council, pursuant to Section 3.30 of the Pierce County Charter.

B. Purpose.
The B-25 Board shall propose to the County Executive and County Council a long-range plan with policy, systems, and environmental change recommendations to ensure the successful development of infants, children, youth and young adults ages Birth to 25. The B-25 Board will also consider recommendations for seriously disabled up to age 25. The proposed long-range plan and policy recommendations shall consider and leverage current research, innovative and promising programs, as well as proven, evidence-based development strategies likely to be effective in Pierce County.

C. Composition.
The B-25 Board shall be comprised of 19 members who represent the cultural diversity of Pierce County, including: seven community members that can represent family perspectives and viewpoints (one from each of the seven County Council districts); one representative from a county-wide youth-serving organization; one representative from K-12 education; one representative from early childhood education; one representative from youth workforce development; one representative from juvenile justice; one representative from Public Health; one representative from the Behavioral Health community, including mental health and substance use disorder services; one representative from a youth housing/homelessness organization; one representative from the pediatric medical community; one representative from the faith community; one representative of the special needs community; and one young adult. The B-25 Board is also encouraged to add non-voting student members. Preference for young adults in the 18-25 age category and those who have utilized the above-mentioned services will be given in appointing members.
D. **Terms of Office.**

Members of the B-25 Board shall serve until the sunset date of December 31, 2021.

E. **Vacancies – Removal from Office.**

Vacancies occurring for any reason shall be filled by appointment for the remainder of an unexpired term. The Executive may remove any member of the B-25 Board for inefficiency, neglect of duty, malfeasance, or three unexcused absences in one year, subject to confirmation by a majority of the County Council.

F. **Officers – Quorum – Voting Privileges.**

The B-25 Board shall elect a Chair and Vice-Chair from among its members. A quorum of the B-25 Board for the purposes of transacting business shall be 10 members. Each member of the B-25 Board shall be entitled to one vote on any matter duly before the body. Members shall abstain from voting on matters that create a conflict of interest with their professional role or with the organization they represent.

G. **Meetings – Rules and Records.**

The B-25 Board shall meet at least quarterly. All meetings shall be open to the public. The B-25 Board shall adopt Rules before it transacts business, and a current copy of the Rules shall be provided to the Pierce County Executive and the Clerk of the Pierce County Council. The B-25 Board shall keep written minutes of its meetings and make those minutes available to all active members of the B-25 Board and to the public.

H. **Priorities.**

The work of the B-25 Board will include proposing a long-range plan and policy recommendations focused on achieving equity and in accordance with its purpose; aligning the County's plan with new, innovative and existing programs; and other work as determined by stakeholders, the County Executive and the County Council. The B-25 Board will adopt a pro-social approach that engages children, youth and young adults throughout the age spectrum of Birth to 25 within families, their communities, schools, justice systems, health systems, nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, and peer groups. The B-25 Board is encouraged to research and align its efforts with other compatible culturally appropriate initiatives and other innovative, promising and best practices in child, youth, and young adult development.

I. **Recommendations.**

Proposals and policy recommendations shall be accomplished in the following manner:

1. All proposals and policy recommendations shall be in writing and shall contain specific issues raised by the B-25 Board and be directed to the Pierce County Executive and the County Council for potential action.

2. At least once annually, the B-25 Board shall submit to the Pierce County Executive and the County Council written proposals and policy recommendations preceding the County's budget adoption process.

3. All written proposals and recommendations shall specify the B-25 Board's vote on the issue.
J. **Staff Support.**

The Pierce County Human Services Community Development Division may hire a consultant to facilitate the work of the Board as funded in the County budget.